

## James Allen - The 8 pillars of prosperity | **Build Lasting Success**

Eight Pillars of Prosperity, James Allen argues that true prosperity is built upon a foundation of moral virtue. The author posits that eight key moral principles, such as Energy, Economy, Integrity, and Sincerity, are essential for achieving and sustaining success in business and all aspects of life. He asserts that ignoring these principles will inevitably lead to failure, and that true prosperity is not merely about financial wealth, but also about living a harmonious and satisfying life.

### Core Argument

The author posits that prosperity is not solely about financial wealth but encompasses a holistic sense of well-being and happiness achieved through aligning oneself with the universal laws of morality. Ignoring these principles leads to inevitable failure, while adhering to them paves the way for enduring success.

### **Analogy of the Temple**

The author uses the analogy of a temple to illustrate the concept of prosperity. This temple is supported by eight pillars, each representing a crucial moral principle. These pillars, cemented in a foundation of moral consistency, are:

1. **Energy:** Effort, industry, and enthusiasm in pursuing a worthwhile purpose.
  - "Earnest people make rapid progress both in their work and their character."
1. **Economy:** Wise use of time, energy, money, and resources, avoiding waste and extravagance.
  - "Time is money... health, and strength, and talent, and genius, and wisdom, in accordance with the manner in which it is used."
1. **Integrity:** Uprightness, honesty, and trustworthiness in all dealings and transactions.
  - "Nothing is ever gained, ever can be gained, by fraud."
1. **System:** Orderliness, methodical approach, and attention to detail in all endeavours.
  - "System is the law by which everything... is built."
1. **Sympathy:** Understanding, kindness, generosity, and insightful connection with others.
  - "Sympathy, in its real and profound sense, is oneness with others in their strivings and sufferings."
1. **Sincerity:** Genuineness, authenticity, and truthfulness in thought, word, and deed.
  - "Ring true, a term full of meaning. It has reference to the coin which... emits a sound which reveals the sterling metal throughout."

1. **Impartiality:** Fairness, justice, patience, and freedom from prejudice in judgments and actions.
  - "Justice is the giving and receiving of equal values."
1. **Self-Reliance:** Trust in one's own abilities, inner strength, and independent judgment.
  - "Self-trust is the essence of heroism."

#### Key Points:

- **Moral Foundation:** The author stresses that lasting prosperity must be grounded in moral consistency.
- **Interdependence of Pillars:** While each pillar is crucial, they are interdependent. Weakness in one area undermines the entire structure.
- **Character Over Talent:** Moral strength is presented as being more valuable than intellectual talent or financial acumen.
- **Universality of Moral Laws:** The author argues that moral principles are not arbitrary but reflect universal laws that govern both the material and mental realms.
- **Self-Mastery as Key:** Cultivating self-control, discipline, and the ability to overcome negative tendencies is presented as essential for success.

### A Guide to Building Enduring Success

#### Part I: Laying the Foundation

- **Introduction: The Law of Prosperity** Explores the interconnectedness of thoughts, actions, and consequences, emphasizing the universal law governing both the material and mental realms.
- Introduces the eight pillars of prosperity as essential supports for a life of enduring success and happiness.
- **First Pillar: Energy** Defines energy as the driving force behind all achievement, highlighting the importance of cultivating and directing one's energies towards worthwhile goals.
- Emphasizes the need to overcome negativity and inertia, and embrace a proactive and purposeful approach to life.
- **Second Pillar: Economy** Extends the concept of economy beyond mere finances, encompassing the wise management of time, energy, and resources in all areas of life.
- Details the importance of thrift, prudence, and moderation in spending, clothing, food, and recreation.
- **Third Pillar: Integrity** Establishes integrity as the cornerstone of lasting prosperity, advocating for honesty, fairness, and trustworthiness in all dealings.
- Underscores the principle of giving a just return for what one receives, both materially and morally.

## Part II: Raising the Pillars

- **Fourth Pillar: System** Extols the virtues of order, organization, and methodical action as crucial elements for efficiency and effectiveness.
- Illustrates the power of system in various fields, from language and science to business and personal development.
- **Fifth Pillar: Sympathy** Introduces sympathy as a cornerstone of moral strength, emphasizing the importance of understanding, kindness, generosity, and insight in connecting with others.
- Encourages self-sacrifice and service, recognizing the interconnectedness of individual and collective well-being.
- **Sixth Pillar: Sincerity** Presents sincerity as the foundation of trust and genuine human connection, advocating for authenticity, simplicity, and transparency in thought, word, and deed.
- Contrasts the enduring power of genuine character with the fleeting nature of pretence and superficiality.
- **Seventh Pillar: Impartiality** Explores impartiality as the path to wisdom and freedom from prejudice, advocating for fairness, justice, patience, calmness, and open-mindedness.
- Celebrates the power of the impartial thinker who transcends personal biases to see reality clearly and influence the world for good.

## Part III: The Temple of Prosperity

- **Eighth Pillar: Self-Reliance** Champions self-reliance as the essence of heroism and true independence, grounded in decision, steadfastness, dignity, and self-support.
- Distinguishes true self-reliance from arrogance and self-conceit, emphasizing the importance of humility and continuous learning.

## Quotes

- "The boundary lines of a man's morality mark the limits of his success."
- "Ultimate failure and defeat are inevitable where moral principles are ignored or defied."
- "Calmness is the sure indication of a strong, well-trained, patiently disciplined mind."
- "Resourcefulness is the outcome of efficiency."
- "Strong men have strong purposes, and strong purposes lead to strong achievements."
- "Attractiveness, like genius, is lost by being coveted, and possessed by those who are too solid and sincere of character to desire it."

**Conclusion**

**The Complete Edifice** summarizes the eight pillars and their interconnected nature, highlighting their collective power in building an enduring and fulfilling life. Offers final guidance on applying these principles to achieve lasting prosperity in all spheres of life.

The book paints a picture of prosperity as a holistic state achieved through aligning oneself with universal moral principles. It encourages the reader to cultivate these virtues as the foundation for a truly successful and fulfilling life.

**Glossary of Key Terms****Moral Consistency**

Steadfast adherence to ethical principles; a foundation for lasting success.

**Adamantine**

Unbreakable, firm, and resolute, describing the strength of moral character.

**Transmutation**

The transformation of one element or form into another, particularly in the context of spiritual growth.

**Spendthrift**

A person who spends money recklessly and wastefully

**Miser**

A person who hoards wealth and is unwilling to spend it, even for necessities.

**Thrifty**

Using money and resources carefully and avoiding waste.

**Prudent**

Acting with thoughtfulness and good judgement.

**Vigilance**

The state of being watchful and alert, guarding against potential harm.

**Thoughtlessness**

A lack of careful consideration or attention, often leading to folly.

**Integrity**

The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

**Fraud**

Deceitful or dishonest practices, especially those intended for financial gain.

**Shirker**

A person who avoids work or responsibility.

**System**

A principle of order and organization that eliminates confusion and fosters efficiency.

**Dilatoriness**

Procrastination, delaying tasks or actions.

**Inaccuracy**

Lack of precision or correctness.

**Comprehensiveness**

The quality of encompassing a wide range of details and understanding the interconnectedness of elements.

**Self-Sacrifice**

Putting the needs of others before one's own.

**Sympathy**

Sharing the feelings and experiences of others; understanding and compassion.

**Kindness**

A quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.

**Generosity**

Willingness to give and share with others.

**Gentleness**

Mildness and kindness in behaviour and temperament.

**Insight**

Deep understanding and perception.

**Sincerity**

The quality of being genuine and truthful in one's thoughts, words, and actions.

**Impartiality**

Fairness and lack of bias, treating all parties equally.

**Self-Reliance**

Trust in one's own abilities and judgement; independence.

**Decision**

The act of making a clear and firm choice.

**Steadfastness**

Unwavering adherence to principles; firmness and determination.

**Dignity**

A sense of self-worth and respect, leading to a composed and honourable demeanour.

**Independence**

Freedom from reliance on others; self-sufficiency.